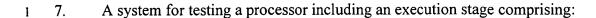
What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for testing a processor including an execution stage comprising:
- 2 generating a neutral instruction;
- providing said neutral instruction to execution stage of said processor; and
- executing said neutral instruction to ascertain an architectural state value for said
- 5 processor.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein said neutral instruction is generated when a plurality of
- 2 instructions are generated by a compiler.
- 3. The method of claim 1 wherein said neutral instruction is generated by a No-operation
- 2 (NOP) pseudo-random generator.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the execution of said neutral instruction causes said
- 2 processor to access a value stored in a register in said processor.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the execution of said neutral instruction causes said
- 2 processor to access a value stored in a register in said processor.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein said neutral instruction is generated by a post-processor
- 2 device.



- 2 comparison logic coupled to the execution stage of said processor, wherein said
- 3 execution unit is execute a neutral instruction to ascertain an architectural state value for said
- 4 processor.
- 1 8. The system of claim 7 wherein said neutral instruction is generated by a compiler.
- 1 9. The system of claim 7 further comprising:
- 2 a No-operation (NOP) pseudo-random generator coupled to the execution unit of said 3 processor to generate said neutral instruction.
- 1 10. The system of claim 9 wherein the processor includes a register and the execution of said 2 neutral instruction causes said processor to access a value stored in the register in said processor.
- 1 11. The system of claim 10 wherein said neutral instruction includes XORing the contents of said register with itself.
- 1 12. The system of claim 10 wherein said neutral instruction includes ANDing the contents of
- 2 said register with all binary 1 values.
- 1 13. The system of claim 10 wherein said neutral instruction includes ORing the contents of
- 2 said register with all binary 0 values.

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- being executed in an execution stage by a processor for implementing a method to test the
- 3 processor, the method comprising:
- 4 generating a neutral instruction;
- 5 providing said neutral instruction to the execution stage of said processor; and
- 6 executing said neutral instruction to ascertain an architectural state value for said
- 7 processor.
- 1 15. The set of instructions of claim 14 wherein in said method said neutral instruction is
- 2 generated when a plurality of instructions are generated by a compiler.
- 1 16. The set of instructions of claim 14 wherein in said method said neutral instruction is
- generated by a No-operation (NOP) pseudo-random generator.
- 1 17. The set of instructions of claim 16 wherein in said method the execution of said neutral
- 2 instruction causes said processor to access a value stored in a register in said processor.
- 1 18. The set of instructions of claim 14 wherein in said method the execution of said neutral
- 2 instruction causes said processor to access a value stored in a register in said processor.
- 1 19. The set of instructions of claim 14 wherein in said method said neutral instruction is
- 2 generated by a post-processor device.